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# AFGHANISTAN

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## FACT SHEET

### AgDepots – Rural Farm Stores

#### OVERVIEW

Afghanistan's farmers have few places where they can buy high-quality, reliable agricultural products and equipment. As roughly 80 percent of Afghans work in the agriculture sector, the lack of modern supplies, such as seeds, fertilizer, and tools, hinders productivity and income opportunities for an overwhelming majority of the population. As part of its Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Program (ASAP), USAID began working with Afghan entrepreneurs in late 2006 to establish AgDepots – small, privately owned and branded rural farm stores. In addition to selling quality supplies at affordable prices, AgDepots also provide training in improved agricultural techniques. These new methods, such as grape trellising, increase yields and help farmers meet national and international demand for quality, value-added products.

#### CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- **Agricultural supplies and equipment:** Provide quality agricultural inputs and services such as pesticides, fertilizers, tools, machinery, training, and new technologies to farmers within their communities at reasonable costs
- **Training:** Work closely with farmers by demonstrating and promoting better agricultural products and methods
- **Business opportunities:** Establish commercial links with international manufacturers and provide the rural farm stores with training on business management and crop production to grow their business and better assist farmers

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Opened 370 AgDepots in all regions of Afghanistan
- Generated \$6.5 million in gross sales of items such as grape trellises, pesticides, seeds, fertilizer, and tools
- Provided hundreds of farmers and grape producers with grape trellising posts and offered support in installation and management of the posts (the posts sell for half the market rate through the AgDepots and double grape yields)